

The background features a dark gray field with several concentric circles in lighter shades of gray. A bright green, curved swoosh enters from the right edge, curving upwards and towards the center.

Restitution Resource Center

OVC Funded Project

The Restitution Resource Center team is composed of leaders from The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center and the National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI), in cooperation with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).



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**Justice
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A number of advocates have supported the early development of the Restitution Resource Center, including nine people from the State Administering Offices of state compensation and VOCA assistance formula awards.



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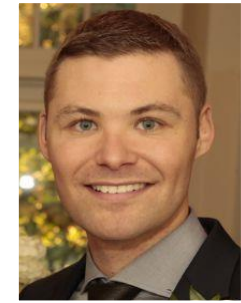
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A light green graphic featuring two hands, palms facing each other, holding a heart. The hands are stylized with rounded fingers and a simple wrist line. The heart is a solid light green color. The text "Improving restitution systems helps victims." is centered within the heart.

Improving restitution
systems helps victims.

There are four actions every state can take to improve restitution processes.



Collect and share **restitution data** to track what is owed and what has been paid.



Assess and improve restitution **policy and practice**.

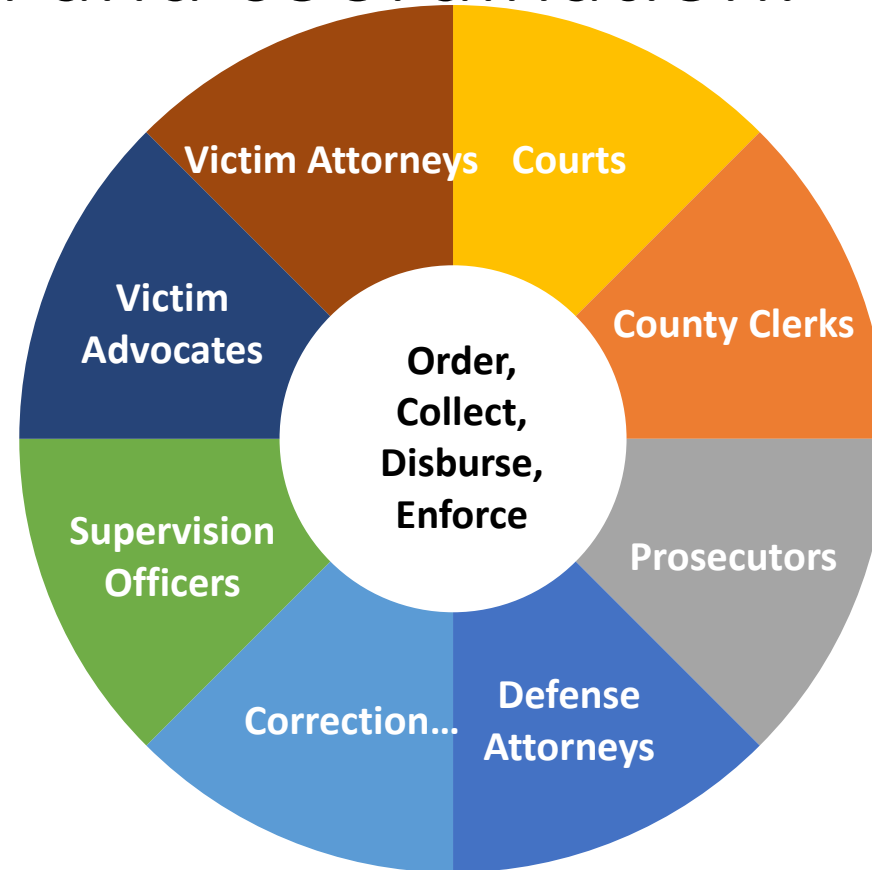


Make restitution a priority for agency **leadership and staff**.



Increase **coordination and collaboration** across agencies to collect, track, and disburse restitution effectively.

No one agency is responsible for all facets of restitution; improving restitution requires collaboration and coordination.



Numerous states have carried out restitution analysis and developed recommendations to improve outcomes.



Arkansas

In 2011, the Arkansas legislature passed Act 570 in order to study victim restitution and its relationship to other legal financial obligations. A report with findings was released in 2012.



Minnesota

In 2013, Minnesota convened a working group to study restitution requests, orders, and collections. Two years later, a report with intensive court data analysis was submitted to the legislature containing recommendations.



Pennsylvania

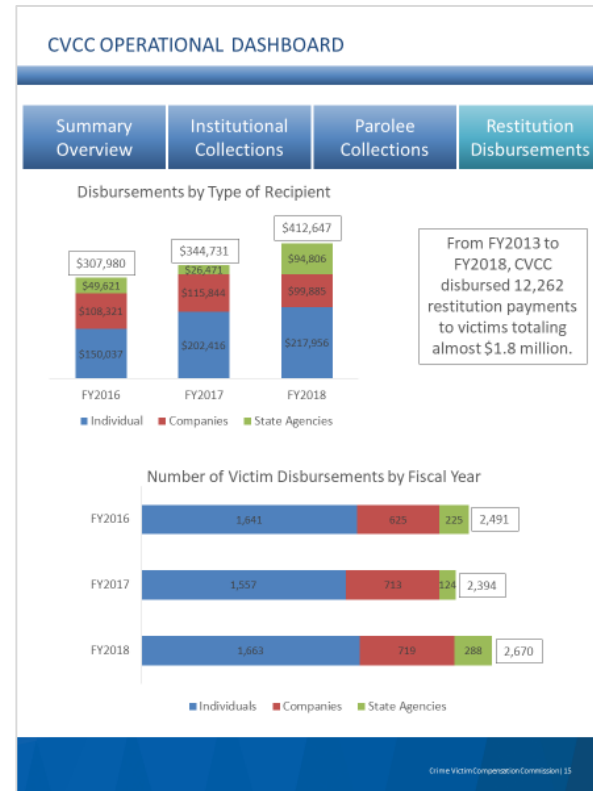
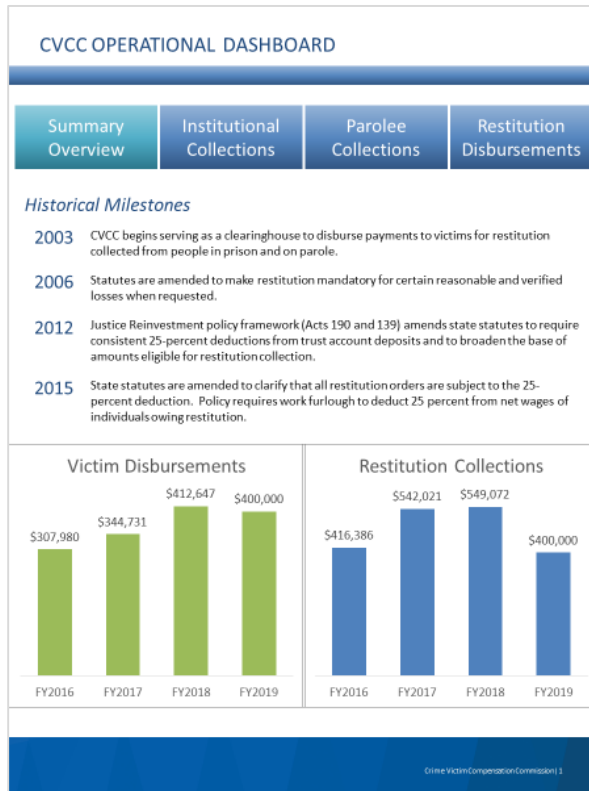
In 2013, a task force unveiled recommendations for restitution improvements, some of which have been carried out in statute or in practice.

Since 2013, leaders in Hawaii have worked diligently to ensure restitution improvements passed through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative last.

- Disbursements to victims have increased, particularly for amounts of \$25 and above.
- Restitution cases are being paid in full within shorter periods of time.
- Hawaii has more than doubled the number of restitution cases paid in full in recent years.
- Between FY2013 and FY2018, correctional facility, furlough, and parole collections more than doubled in Hawaii.



The Hawaii Crime Victim Compensation Commission's (CVCC) database has enabled the agency to develop a dashboard for reporting outcomes and progress.



The CVCC dashboard summarizes institutional collections, payments from people on parole, and disbursements to victims and allows users to drill down to details such as collections from specific institutions or parole offices across the state.

The Iowa Crime Victims Assistance Division leadership worked with the Statistical Analysis Center to ground recommendations with comprehensive data analysis.

1. Analyze victim registration data
2. Ensure accessibility
3. Disseminate best practices
4. Implement information technology solutions
5. Increase victim access to restitution funds
6. Create incentive opportunities
7. Assess updates to policy and automation of county collection processes
8. Prioritize victim restitution cases
9. Assess the Iowa Courts Information System (ICIS) capability
10. Standardize policies
11. Create payment notification
12. Conduct cross-training
13. Develop partnerships to work on restitution



The Restitution Resource Center offers opportunities as soon as January to work one-on-one with your or other jurisdictions in your state to address restitution challenges across the country.

- There is a selection process and application
 - A limited number of jurisdictions will be selected
 - The assistance will last no longer than 12 months
 - Each project will have an assessment and implementation phase
- Agencies interested in technical assistance can:
 - Submit a request through the CSG Justice Center website:
<https://csgjusticecenter.org/projects/restitution/>

OR

- Submit a request through the NCVLI website:
[https://law.lclark.edu/centers/national crime victim law institute/professional resources/technical assistance/](https://law.lclark.edu/centers/national_crime_victim_law_institute/professional_resources/technical_assistance/)

As a team, leaders at the Restitution Resource Center are developing tools to solve emerging restitution challenges.

- Practical guides on how to
 - Improve how restitution is ordered, collected, disbursed, and enforced;
 - Develop interagency coordination; and
 - Collect data to improve restitution practices.
- Examples of work throughout the country on
 - Judges bench guides;
 - Restitution recovery/coordinator position descriptions;
 - Payment plan worksheets for supervision officers.

If you're interested in sharing your best practices, reports, and other tools with other advocates, please email us: okoukou@csj.org

Join Us!

- To stay connected and up to date, join our email list by visiting <https://csgjusticecenter.org/projects/restitution/>
- Once you join, you will
 - Be able to participate in our nationwide restitution survey;
 - Connect to other criminal justice professionals involved in restitution management; and
 - Receive information on our intensive TA application process.

Questions?

Thank You!

Join the CSG Justice Center's distribution list to receive updates and announcements:

www.csgjusticecenter.org/subscribe

For more information, please contact Olivia Koukoui at okoukoui@csg.org

The presentation was developed by members of The Council of State Governments Justice Center staff. The statements made reflect the views of the authors, and should not be considered the official position of The Council of State Governments Justice Center, the members of The Council of State Governments, or the funding agency supporting the work.

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